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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, September 18, 2012

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2012

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee was called to order at 12:31 pm on September 18, 2012 in the MLS Classroom CSS 167 by Claire Strom.

Present:

Claire Strom, Jana Mathews, Susan Walsh, Pedro Bernal, Maria Ruiz, Jennifer Cavanaugh, Martina Vidovic, Wenxian Zhang, Lito Valdivia (student rep)

Visitors: Holly Pohlig, Debra Wellman, Dexter Boniface, Leslie Poole, Sharon Lusk

A. Minutes

Minutes from 9/05/12 were approved.

B. Holt Request for changing the numbers on courses - Approved

Leslie stated that the growth management major and minor in Holt is ending. However, some of these courses are still quite valuable and will continue to be taught. In consultation with Asst. Dean Sharon Lusk and Dr. Bruce Stephenson, Leslie proposed that these courses should be renumbered. It is anticipated that these changes also would facilitate crosslisting with the A&S programs. In summary, GMS 191 Humanscapes will be renamed as ENV 191; GMS 200 Pursuing the American Dream will be renamed as ENV 200; GMS 201 Historic Preservation will be renamed as ENV 201; GMS 302 Citizen Participation will be renamed as ENV 303. There are not any ENV courses in A&S and Holt at this time with these numbers so there should not be any conflict. In addition, two titles of current ENV courses will change: ENV 327 to Environmental Field Analysis and ENV 302 to Town Planning: Sustainability Field Analysis. These changes were approved by AAC, but Jennifer pointed out that title and number changes should technically be handled by the new course subcommittee next time, rather than AAC as a whole. Claire will redirect these requests in the future.

C. Change in LACS major - Tabled Until Wider Discussion

Dexter proposed that the initial clause in the Latin American/Caribbean Studies major that states that students cannot count these courses toward another major be removed. The text currently says "*Only two (2) courses taken to fulfill requirements in another major or minor*

from the departments listed above and with a concentration on Latin America or the Caribbean may count toward meeting the requirements of the major in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. These must be approved by the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Coordinator." This clause exists to prevent students from counting the same courses toward different majors. However, Dexter feels that it limits the number of majors, and he would like to see more students double majoring with this interdisciplinary major that is not as widely publicized. The fear is that, unlike Political Science and International Relations, this restriction actually discourages students from majoring in LACS. Right now, there are only 4 to 5 LACS majors, but with the ability to "double-dip", this may increase the number of students majoring in LACS to 10.

The committee expressed concerns about the precedent for this among other interdisciplinary majors. Jana asked how many additional classes a student might need to get a major in LACS. Dexter replied that a well organized International Relations major might be able to double major in LACS with only an additional 2 or 3 courses. Claire questioned whether this would open the door for triple majors. Furthermore, she asked as to whether this makes it only a minor since it might be so few additional classes. Pedro stated that sometimes major maps have less overlap so that the content is not diluted and provides better preparation in a specific field. The committee debated as to whether they could put a strict number on how many classes should be allowed to count for two different majors. However, it was decided that a larger discussion (perhaps with the faculty as a whole) and more research into similar interdisciplinary majors is warranted before setting a precedent that might have to be changed and therefore could result in student outrage. Jennifer suggested that perhaps the conversation could be fast-tracked if we get all the program directors to agree on a number before bringing this question to the faculty as a whole.

Claire also recognized a need to more widely publicize these so-called "homeless" interdisciplinary majors, such as LACS and Women's Studies.

D. Self-Designed Major: Justin Kagan - Denied

Jennifer stated that the purpose of a self-designed major is student interest in the intersection between disciplines that cannot be accomplished by merely double majoring. These are typically reserved for the exceptional student, and often these majors are more challenging than the currently offered major map. As part of the self-designed major, each student must do a year-long research project. Deb noted that there are not defined criteria for approving a self-designed major, as it was found that these majors were often so diverse that it was hard to fairly apply the criteria. Holly said that self-designed majors are not widely advertised to students, as they are very much the exception to the rule. Jana felt that more self-designed majors existed before we developed so many interdisciplinary majors.

Justin is a transfer student who has already achieved his AA degree and therefore completed all his general education requirements. He currently runs a nonprofit integrating the Asian community, particularly that of Asian arts, into Orlando. He proposed to design a major combining courses from Religion, Language, and Anthropology. His argument was that the Asian Studies major focused too much on business, and the Religion major focused too much on religions that are less relevant to Asia. The committee felt that our majors are intended to introduce students to a wide skill and content set that may include some classes that students

are not initially interested in so he could not argue that he simply did not want to take these courses. In addition, it may be beneficial to push him outside his boundaries, rather than just allowing him to take what he already knows he wants. His proposal also suggested that he only do 16 credits each semester which is not above and beyond the typical student. The committee decided it might be best for him to chose a major in Asian Studies and minor in Religion or Anthropology. He should have a discussion with his advisor about the feasibility of completing a preexisting major in two years.

E. Next week's agenda

- 1) Approve minutes of last meeting
- 2) Changes in IR (9/25)
- 3) Changes in Archaeology minor (9/25)
- 4) Minor GPA requirements (9/25)
- 5) Cross college majors (10/2)
- 6) Jewish studies minor in Holt (10/16)

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 pm by Claire Strom. The next general meeting will be at 12:30 pm September 25, 2012 in the MLS Classroom CSS 167.

Minutes submitted by

Susan Walsh

Approved by

Environmental Studies and Civic Urbanism Holt School

**From: Leslie Kemp Poole, Director Environmental Studies and Civic Urbanism
Hamilton Holt School July 27, 2012**

Suggestions for course changes:

With the end of the growth management major and minor, and in consultation with Asst. Dean Sharon Lusk and Dr. Bruce Stephenson, it would be a move toward practicality and assessment compatibility to renumber the courses once listed in the Growth Management coursework. It is anticipated that these changes also would facilitate cross-listing with the A&S programs. We do not want to discard these courses, as during the past 13 years they have proven to be of great value.

To that end, I would propose these changes:

GMS 191 – **Humanscapes** to be renamed as ENV 191

GMS 200 – **Pursuing the American Dream** to ENV 200

GMS 201 – **Historic Preservation** to ENV 201

GMS 302 – **Citizen Participation** to ENV 303

There are not any ENV courses in A&S and Holt at this time with these numbers, so there shouldn't be any conflict.

That leaves two remaining GMS classes, GMS 215 – Topics and GMS 324 – Statistics for Urban Affairs. They are not being used at this time and may not be for the foreseeable future.

While we are addressing these issues, Dr. Stephenson and I believe that two current Holt ENV courses would benefit from a change in title.

We suggest:

ENV 327 be called **Environmental Field Analysis**

ENV 302 be called **Town Planning: Sustainability Field Analysis**

This works in conjunction with our continuing efforts to offer students pre-professional opportunities to field analyses of urban and natural settings.

ENV 327 should be added to the Environmental Studies track for majors